

This Page Is Inserted by IFW Operations
and is not a part of the Official Record

BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images may include (but are not limited to):

- BLACK BORDERS
- TEXT CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES
- FADED TEXT
- ILLEGIBLE TEXT
- SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES
- COLORED PHOTOS
- BLACK OR VERY BLACK AND WHITE DARK PHOTOS
- GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS

IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.

**As rescanning documents *will not* correct images,
please do not report the images to the
Image Problem Mailbox.**



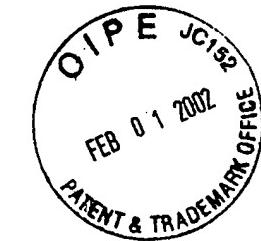
Inventor: Gordon Herman BOKELMAN et al. Appln. No. New U.S. Patent Appln.

Docket No.: 021238-469 Work Atty: WOT/tlp Date: February 1, 2002

Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR AIR CURING TOBACCO

65 The following was/were received in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date stamped hereon:

- Utility Patent Application Transmittal
 Design Patent Application Transmittal
 Continuing Prosecution Application Request
 Provisional Application Cover Sheet
 Provisional Application Transmittal
 Continuation/Divisional Application (Rule 1.53(b)) with copy of application
 Request for Continued Examination
INCLUDING:
 Specification (pages 1 - 11)
 Claims (claim(s) 1 - 20, 4 pgs.)
 Drawings (Fig(s). 1a - 3, 3 pgs.)
 Abstract of the Disclosure
- Executed Declaration/Power of Attorney
 Unexecuted Declaration/Power of Attorney
 Assignment/Assignment Recordation Form Cover Sheet (PTO-1595)
 Claim for Convention Priority w/_ certified copy(s)
 Preliminary Amendment
 Information Discl. Statement Transmittal Letter
 Information Disclosure Citation (PTO-1449)
 Information Disclosure Statement w/23 document(s)
 Petition for ___ Month Extension of Time
 Constructive Petition for Extensions of Time
 Patent Application Data Sheet
- Check for \$ 780.00 is enclosed
 Check for \$ is enclosed
 Charge \$ to Deposit Account



9-AUG-1998
2. check
65

(11/01)

*Image*H731
B
Patent
Attorney's Docket No. 021238-469**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of) MAIL STOP ISSUE FEE
Gordon Herman BOKELMAN et al.) Group Art Unit: 1731
Application No.: 10/060,347) Examiner: C. Lopez
Filed: February 1, 2002) Confirmation No.: 7641
For: TOBACCO CURING BARN (As)
Amended))
)
)

**REQUEST FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT THAT ALL DOCUMENTS
CITED IN FEBRUARY 1, 2002 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicants gratefully acknowledge receipt of a Notice of Allowance dated April 22, 2004. However, the Notice of Allowance did not indicate that documents submitted with the First Information Disclosure filed on February 1, 2002 have been considered by the Examiner. For the convenience of the Examiner, a copy of the Information Disclosure Statement and the stamped postcard submitted on February 1, 2002 are enclosed.

The Examiner is requested to initial and return to the undersigned a copy of the subject Form PTO-1449.

In view of the foregoing, the Examiner is requested to make of record the documents submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement filed on February 1, 2002.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Date: April 27, 2004

By: 
Peter K. Skiff
Registration No. 31,917

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620

VA 140042.1



Patent
Attorney's Docket No. 021238-469

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of)
Gordon Herman BOKELMAN et al.) Group Art Unit: Unassigned
Application No.: New U.S. Patent Application) Examiner: Unassigned
Filed: February 1, 2002)
For: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR AIR)
CURING TOBACCO)

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants hereby submit the following information in conformance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98, a copy of each of the documents cited is enclosed.

The documents are being submitted within 3 months of the filing or entry of the national stage of this application or before the first Office Action on the merits, whichever is later, therefore no fee or statement is required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b).

It is respectfully requested that an Examiner-initialed copy of the attached PTO-1449 form be returned to the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

By: William O. Trousdell
William O. Trousdell
Registration No. 38,637

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620

Date: February 1, 2002

DOCKETED
filed 2-1-02 c55



APR 27 2004

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

SHEET 1 OF 1

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT		ATTORNEY'S DKT NO. 021238-469	APPLICATION NO. New U.S. Patent Appln
		APPLICANT Gordon Herman BOKELMAN et al.	
		FILING DATE February 1, 2002	GROUP Unassigned

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS				
Examiner Initials	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication (MM-DD-YYYY)
	Number	Kind Code (if known)		
	2,343,345		R.D. TOUTON	03-07-1944
	2,528,982		R.D. TOUTON	11-07-1950
	3,110,326		F.J. HASSSLER	11-12-1963
	3,503,137		R.W. WILSON	03-31-1970
	3,669,429		DEW	06-13-1972
	3,999,303		MARTIN et al.	12-28-1976
	4,021,928		JOHNSON	05-10-1977
	4,192,323		HORNE	03-11-1980
	4,326,537		CROSLIN	04-27-1982
	4,470,422		JOUBERT et al.	09-11-1984
	4,559,956		DE LANGE et al.	12-24-1985
	4,850,264		KISER	07-25-1989
	4,960,041		KISER	10-02-1990
	5,146,977		KISER	09-15-1992
	5,586,932		KISER	12-24-1996
	5,685,710		MARTINEZ SAGRERA et al.	11-11-1997
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS				
Examiner Initials	Foreign Patent Document		Country	Date of Publication (MM-DD-YYYY)
	Number	Kind Code (if known)		
	CA 557,858		CANADA	05-27-1958
	SU 1009-414-A		RUSSIA	04-07-1983
	FR 1,206,397		FRANCE	02-09-1960
	FR 583,005		FRANCE	01-05-1925
	IT 265119		ITALY	03-24-1929
	IT 657767		ITALY	11-16-1963
NON-PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS				
Examiner Initials	Include name of author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.			
	BUENSOD, A.C., Air Conditioning for Tobacco Manufacturing, Architectural Record, November 1952, pp. 88-89			
Examiner Signature			Date Considered	

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.